

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 6-10, 12-20 under Section 103, and objected to claims 2, 4, 5, and 11. The Examiner also indicated that claims 2, 4, 5 and 11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim Objections

The Applicants have amended claims 1 and 10 to include in complete form the term "IOP." With regard to the objection of claims 3, and 12-14, the Applicants submit that further amendments made to independent claims 1 and 10 provide sufficient antecedent basis for respective claim limitations recited in the objected claims. Accordingly, the Applicants submit that no corrections are required for claims 3, and 12-14. The Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to all claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Based on the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, Applicants have chosen to place the application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 10, and 18 to include subject matter indicated as allowable by the Examiner. First, Applicants have incorporated subject matter of dependent claim 2 into independent claim 1. Second, Applicants have incorporated allowable dependant claim 11 into independent claim 10. Third, Applicants have incorporated allowable subject matter into independent claim 18. Accordingly, claims 2 and 11 have been cancelled.

It should be noted, however, that Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejections set forth in the Office Action. Moreover, the Applicant reserves the right to contest those rejections in a continuing application.

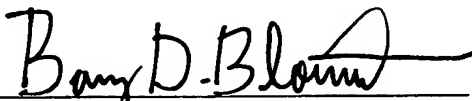
Upon entry of these amendments, the claims that remain pending in the present application are believed to be in condition for allowance. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims.

Conclusion

The Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner believes certain amendments are necessary to clarify the present claims or if the Examiner wishes to resolve any other issues by way of a telephone conference, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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